

LIBERTYVILLE SUBURBS

Medline is bringing 600 jobs to Libertyville after announcing plans to open new support center

By JAMES T. NORMAN

PIONEER PRESS | MAR 04, 2020 | 4:56 PM



Medline Industries announced plans to open a new sales support center in Libertyville. (Erin Hooley / Chicago Tribune)

Medline, maker and distributor of medical supplies, is planning to bring almost 600 employees to Libertyville as part of a move to a new national sales support center within the village's Innovation Park business complex, the company announced Wednesday.

Employees at Medline's headquarters in Northfield and its business campus in Mundelein will be relocating to the new center since both locations have reached maximum capacity, the company said in a statement. The new sales support hub in Libertyville will mark the seventh location for Medline in Lake County.

When the company's 10-year lease at Innovation Park in the village takes effect, Medline also plans to start work on an estimated \$14 million in facility upgrades, according to the company's statement. Jesse Greenberg, public affairs director for Medline, said the business is looking to start operations at the new center before the end of the year.

"We think it's going to be a great place to work and a great place to grow," Greenberg said. "Innovation Park offers a great package for us."

The space at Innovation Park, near Route 45 and Winchester Road in Libertyville, can accommodate up to 800 people, leaving the company with some more room for growth, he said. He said Medline was drawn to Libertyville because of what Innovation Park offered, calling the space modern and unique.

The announcement comes after the manufacturer and distributor moved forward on plans earlier this year to relocate its distribution center in Libertyville and the 350 employees who work there farther north to a 1.4-million-square-foot space in Grayslake.

Medline also has been under scrutiny over its operations in Waukegan, where the company has used the cancer-causing chemical ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment. Earlier this winter, Medline was forced to temporarily close its Waukegan plant because it couldn't meet new state ethylene oxide standards.

The company had said it expected to resume full operations once it is finished testing newly installed equipment at the Waukegan facility.

With plans underway to start up operations in Libertyville and Grayslake, Greenberg said the primary motivation for the recent moves was the company's growth in recent years.

Medline has increased its overall job numbers in the Chicago area by 34% in the past three years, growing from 3,450 employees at the end of 2017 to 4,650 employees at the start of 2020, the company said.

More than two years ago, Medline moved its headquarters from Mundelein to their current location in Northfield. Now, the company is beginning to outgrow its headquarters in Northfield, which has led to them trying to spread out their teams, the company said.

Medline's latest announcement also marks the third company that has finalized plans to relocate operations to Innovation Park in Libertyville since early February.

EvBox, an electric car charger manufacturer, and Intermatic, a manufacturer of home control devices, both announced plans to move their U.S. headquarters to the business park on the northwest side of the village.

Meg Grow, vice president of leasing at Innovation Park, said Medline started showing interest in the Libertyville business park after coming out for an initial tour and seeing the features that were included at the facility. Several other tours followed and Medline eventually signed a lease to a space that includes 140,000 square feet, she said.

“Within the past 90 days ... (we’ve) leased over 325,000 square feet and are trending towards 90% occupancy by year end,” she stated. “This is a testament to the fact that occupiers and employers find value in staying and expanding in the suburbs.”

jnorman@chicagotribune.com
